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November 9, 2023

The Honorable Chris Coons  
218 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Coons and Murkowski:

The American Academy of Neurology (AAN) is the world's largest neurology specialty society representing more than 40,000 neurologists, clinical neuroscience professionals, and students. The AAN is dedicated to promoting the highest quality patient-centered neurologic care. A neurologist is a doctor with specialized training in diagnosing, treating, and managing disorders of the brain and nervous system. These disorders affect one in six people and include conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, stroke, migraine, multiple sclerosis, concussion, Parkinson's disease, ALS, and epilepsy.

The AAN writes to express our support for the ALS Better Care Act (S.3258). This legislation helps ensure that patients with ALS can receive care at multidisciplinary clinics around the country by enhancing Medicare reimbursement to match the high-quality multifaceted care they provide.

Multidisciplinary clinics are essential to providing necessary care for patients with ALS. These clinics serve to coordinate the complex care needs of patients living with ALS. These services include sessions with a neurologist experienced in treating ALS, as well as a nurse case manager, physical therapist, occupational therapist, respiratory therapist, dietitian, speech language pathologist, social worker, mental health professional, and more. For both adult and pediatric neuromuscular disorders, multidisciplinary care is considered the standard of care, and has been associated with improved health outcomes. Visiting a multidisciplinary clinic can help people with ALS get the best possible care for their condition.

These essential multidisciplinary clinics are currently not being reimbursed accurately for the plethora of services they provide and so must make up for this funding gap through other revenue streams, including the voluntary support of non-governmental organizations. Without adequate reimbursement, patient access to care suffers as facilities face many challenges and are often forced to make changes to stay solvent that result in long wait times or decreased care innovation.

The ALS Better Care Act will ensure that multidisciplinary care for patients with ALS is appropriately reimbursed, allowing patients to receive the comprehensive care they deserve.

Thank you for your continued leadership on this issue. If you have any questions or requests for additional information, please contact Kelly McCone (kmccone@aan.com), Senior Congressional Affairs Manager. We look forward to working with you as we all strive to care for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carlayne Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carlayne E. Jackson, MD, FAAN

President, American Academy of Neurology